Work Orders placed with Heavy Engineering by Railways

3614. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of work orders placed with Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi by the Railways since 1994 and the amount involved therein;

(b) the amount charged by private parties for the same job;

(c) whether the production by private parties is as per the specifications of the Railways;

(d) if so, the manner in which it is certified;

(e) if there is no certification in this regard the reasons for placing orders with private parties;

(f) the loss incurred by the Railways as a result thereof;

(g) the names of officers responsible for the same;

(h) whether the Government propose to order a CBI enquiry in this affair; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No work order has been placed with Heavy Engineering Corporation since 1994. Work orders are placed by Railways only on their own Workshops and not on any outside firms whether in private or public sector.

(b) to (i) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Conversion of Passenger Train into EMU Train

3615. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal of converting Gaya-Dehri-on-Sone passenger train into EMU train and extending upon Garhwa under Eastern Railway, is under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the time by which Gaya-Garhwa Road EMU passenger service is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) The matter is under examination.

[English]

Satellite Terminals

3616. SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide telephone links to 100 villages using satellite terminals;

(b) if so, the pilot projects to be undertaken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have also decided to expand coverage of 10,000 villages in the country, provided it is successful;

(d) the number of INMARSAT terminals in India which are providing rural telephone;

(e) whether the INMARSAT Mini-M terminals are used for rural telephone project;

(f) if so, whether all the villages are likely to get phone links by using satellite terminals in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : (a) and (b) The Government has envisaged a Pilot Project for linking 100 number of remote areas on franchise basis. This will be mainly used for rural and remote communication.

(c) to (g) Government is planning to provide Satellite based Public Telephone for villages which are not technically feasible on terrestrial media during Ninth Plan period. So far no INMARSAT Mini-M terminals have been deployed for Rural Telephone Project. However, there are about 100 numbers of INMARSAT-M terminals which are being used for communication purposes in various places by many organisation/individuals.

[Translation]

Introduction of Train

3617. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether not even a single train was added under the Eastern Railway last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether no proper facilities of trains, boarding and lodging existed for persons taking holy water from Sultanganj railway station (Bihar) during Shravan month even after repeated requests;

(d) if so, the response therefor;

(e) whether passengers from Jasidih railway station try to board the train by all means because there is no special train, appropriate coaches and no quota in trains from there; and

(f) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. 9 Express train (single) were introduced in Eastern Railway.

(c) and (d) Amenities have been provided on the station as per norms. However, during Mela period these facilities are suitably augmented. Moreover, Railway Officers/Staff are posted to attend to the problems of the pilgrims on the spot. Additional booking counters are opened and additional staff is also posted during such periods.

(e) and (f) For the rail journey of the pilgrims attending Shravan Mela at Baidyanathdham Railways have extended the run of 5JK/6JK Kiul-Jamalpur Passenger upto Sultanganj and also two daily special trains are being run-one between Jasidih and Patna and another between Jasidih and Barauni during 21.7.97 to 20.8.97. Reservation quotas have been given by the trains stopping at Jasidih station.

Expenditure Incurred in Mining Sector

3618. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred by the Ministry/Department in the mining sector during each of the last two years;

(b) the details of achievements made in this field and mines explored alongwith the value minerals extracted therefrom during the said period, year-wise; and

(c) the details of programmes being implemented during this year?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The Plan Expenditure in mining sector by Geological Survey of India and the Indian Bureau of mines, the two subordinate organisations of the Ministry of Mines during the last two years was as follows:-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	GSI	IBM
1995-96	56.50	7.47
1996-97	82.00	8.20

The Ministry of Mines had also released Rs. 8.00 crores in 1995-96 and Rs. 7.00 crores in 1996-97 to Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. For doing promotional work in drilling and mining.

(b) During 1995-96, GSI covered 4732 Sq. kms. through ground surveys, 46,878 sq. kms. of marine surveys in the Exclusive Economic Zone and 86,518.06 metres of drilling for mineral exploration. GSI has established during 1995-96 additional reserves of 945 million tonnes of coal, 250 million tonnes of lignite, 0.43 million tonnes with 3.93% copper-lead-zinc in Hesathu Belbathgan belt, Bihar, 8.7 million tonnes of manganese ore in Bonai Keonjhar belt of Orissa and 2.04 million tonnes of gold ore in parts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. In 1996-97, 23,600 Sq. kms. of marine survey in the Exclusive Economic Zone, Airborne multi-sensor survey of 4383 Lkm. (covering 4006 Sq. kms.), 1070.50 Sq. kms of large scale mapping, 10.695 Sq. kms. of detailed mapping and 41,896.06 metres of drilling were carried out by GSI. GSI has established additional 381 million tonnes of coal reserves, 1.45 million tonnes with 6.93% Lead+Zinc in Amtiyargard Block, Dehradun Distt., U.P., 0.7 million tonne of ore with 1.2% copper in Garara Block, Bhandara Distt., Maharashtra and 2.6 million tonnes of ore with 0.116% molybdenum in Velampati South Block of Harur Uttarangarai belt of Tamil Nadu.

During the year 1995-96, the Indian Bureau of Mines had conducted 2655 inspections of mines, approved 641 mining plans and 82 mining schemes and conducted 71 ore dressing investigations with 47,674 chemical analysis and 2358 mineralogical examinations. In the year 1996-97, IBM had conducted 2668 inspection of mines, approved 610 mining plans and 147 mining schemes and undertaken 71 Ore Dressing investigations, with 35,472 chemical analysis and 2435 mineralogical examinations.

During the last two years MECL had undertaken 11 projects in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka and Rajasthan establishing 69.99 million tonnes of copper ore and 5.61 million tonnes of gold ore.

(c) Exploration and mining is a continuous process. However, during 1997-98, GSI has a plan to undertake systematic geological mapping of 5800 Sq. kms. and 7200 Sq. kms. of specialised Thematic Mapping in the country besides large scale mapping of 3600 Sq. kms., detailed mapping of 53 Sq. kms. and drilling of 1,47,000 metres for coal, lignite and other minerals in the country. The I.B.M. has planned to inspect 2650 mines, and undertake 70 ore dressing investigations with 50,000 determination of radicals and 2300 mineralogical examination for benefication of low grade ores, in 1997-98. M.E.C.L. has also proposed to continue their drilling and mining programmes for coal, lignite, gold, copper, zinc-lead and molybdenum etc. during 1997-98.

[English]

Setting up of Power Generating Station in U.P.

3619. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposal from US based company Enron to set up a power generating station in Uttar Pradesh was under the consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the location, cost, capacity share equity etc. of the proposed power project?